

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 2406

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS ON FRG ELECTION

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS' OFF-THE-RECORD VIEWS ON THE RESULTS OF SUNDAY'S BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. IN PRIVATE TALK WITH HANDFUL OF ASSOCIATES, STRAUSS ADVOCATED DESTRUCTION OF THE FDP, SHARPLY CRITICIZED CDU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL AND SEVERAL OTHER CDU LEADERS, CALLED FOR INCREASED CSU ACTIVITY OUTSIDE BAVARIA AND PRO-FESSED TO HAVE NO RPT "NO AMBITIONS IN MUNICH." CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD. END SUMMARY.

2. POST-ELECTION PARTY AT CSU HEADQUARTERS IN WEE HOURS OF OCTOBER 4 GAVE CONGEN OPPORTUNITY FOR UNIQUE GLIMPSE OF FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS EVALUATING RESULTS OF SUNDAY'S BUNDESTAG ELECTION WITH SMALL GROUP OF CSU POLITICIANS. IN COURSE OF 1-1/2 HOUR DISCUSSION, STRAUSS ARTICULATED THE VIEWS OUTLINED BELOW.

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3. THE FDP. IF FDP SHOULD, AS NOW SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, BE TIED TO SPD PERMANENTLY, ONE MUST DECIDE HOW TO DESTROY IT IN ORDER TO PREVENT IT FROM RUNNING EVERY GOVERNMENT IN THE FRG WITH A HANDFUL OF STRATEGICALLY-PLACED PEOPLE. IN THIS REGARD, STRAUSS RECALLED HOW HE HAD DESTROYED THE BAVARIAN PARTY (BAYERN PARTEI), A PARTY WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN A "LAND" COALITION WITH THE SPD FROM 1954-57, IN THE FIFTIES AND EARLY SIXTIES. IF THE CSU HADN'T DESTROYED THIS PARTY, SAID STRAUSS, CSU WOULD NEVER HAVE WON AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN BAVARIA. STRAUSS CLAIMED HE HAD FORCED THE ISSUE NOTWITHSTANDING CERTAIN "SENSITIVE TYPES" IN THE CSU.

4. HELMUT KOHL. STRAUSS CRITICIZED CDU/CSU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL FOR THE CDU'S ALLEGED FAILURE TO REACH 50 PERCENT MARK IN RHEINLAND PFALZ. STRAUSS CLAIMED KOHL WAS NOT READY TO ACCEPT "FREEDOM INSTEAD OF SOCIALISM" SLOGAN UNTIL HIS AUSTRIAN ADVISER BACHER CONVINCED HIM OF ITS MERIT. STRAUSS WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF KOHL' ATTITUDE TOWARD FDP CHAIRMAN GENSCHER IN THE SEPTEMBER 30 DEBATE OF SCHMIDT, GENSCHER, KOHL AND STRAUSS. STRAUSS FELT KOHL SHOULD HAVE TREATED GENSCHER AS A POLITICAL OPPONENT, CONFRONTING HIM OPENLY ON THE CDU/CSU'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE FDP.

5. OTHER CDU LEADERS. STRAUSS BLAMED "THE FOOLS IN THE NORTH" FOR DREAMING OF WOOLING FDP AWAY FROM SPD AND THEREFORE FAILING TO CONDUCT THE HARD-HITTING CAMPAIGN NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE ADDITIONAL PERCENTAGE POINT WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE CDU/CSU A MAJORITY OF BUNDESTAG SEATS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY ANNOYED WITH STOLTENBERG, WHOM HE CALLED "THE VILLAGE IDIOT," FOR CLAIMING THAT IT WAS A GREAT VICTORY TO WIN 2 PERCENT MORE VOTES IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN IN 1976 THAN IN 1972, WHEN CDU SUFFERED "A TERRIBLE DEFEAT." GIVEN THE RESULT IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, AID STRAUSS, STOLTENBERG WILL NOT RPT NOT BECOME CDU/CSU "FRAKTIONSCHIEF" IN BONN. STRAUSS WAS ALSO ANNOYED WITH ALBRECHT FOR CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS SOFT ON THE FDP.

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6. CDU/CSU RELATIONS. STRAUSS DECLARED THAT HE WANTS TO PRESERVE THE FULL INDEPENDENCE OF THE CSU WITHIN THE CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG FRAKTION. HE WANTS THE CSU TO DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD MAKE IT BEHOLDEN TO THE CDU. THEREFORE, NO RPT NO CSU DEPUTY WILL BE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESTAG AS THERE IS NO PURPOSE, IN STRAUSS' VIEW, IN CSU OWING POLITICAL DEBT TO CDU FOR "THE RIGHT TO HAVE A FAT MAN ROLL OUT OF A MERCEDES 450."

7. CSU ACTIVITY OUTSIDE BAVARIA. STRAUSS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS HE IS NOW FREE TO FOLLOW HIS CONVICTIONS TO ENGAGE IN EFFORT TO DRAW A CLEAR LINE ("KLARE FRONTEN SCHAFFEN") BETWEEN THE CSU AND CERTAIN CDU LEADERS IN THE NORTH. STRAUSS CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING DOWN STOLTENBERG, ALBRECHT, KIEP ET AL BY GIVING MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO ANY CDU POLITICIANS WHO OPPOSE THEM. HE SAID HE WOULD DO THIS DESPITE FACT THAT 30 PERCENT OF CSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OPPOSE THE USE OF SUCH TACTICS OUTSIDE BAVARIA.

8. PERSONAL FUTURE. STRAUSS PROCLAIMED HE WAS IN "HAPPY POSITION OF HAVING NO RPT NO AMBITIONS OUTSIDE MUNICH." HE SAID HE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTON FOUR YEARS HENCE BUT WOULD BE TOO OLD IN EIGHT YEARS.

9. COMMENT: STRAUSS IS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY FRUSTRATED THAT DESPITE LANDSLIDE VICTORY (60 PERCENT) OF CSU HERE AND SOLID VICTORY OF CDU IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, CDU AND CSU HAVE NOT RPT NOT WON ENOUGH SEATS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. INCOMING DAYS WE EXPECT TO HEAR RENEWED RUMORS ABOUT CSU FOURTH PARTY MOVEMENT OUTSIDE BAVARIA. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT STRAUSS WILL OPT FOR SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE. INSTEAD, HE IS LIKELY TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO PROMOTE CSU INFLUENCE WITHIN CDU, USING CSU FUNDS ON SELECTIVEBASIS TO ASSIST EFFORTS OF CDU POLITICIANS HE CONSIDERS EFFECTIVE. WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE CSU ENGAGE IN MAJOR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WOULD-BE OPPONENTS OF ALBRECHT, KIEP AND STOLTENBERG.BETTS

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